

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2000/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100100179

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.

STATE RCI//INFO CIA OPS CTR FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA REP,
25X1A9a

TREASURY DEPT//INFO

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ITEM NO: 1

DATE: 18 OCT 74

SUBJECT: USSR-EGYPT STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

REF : FBIS 56, 18 OCT 74, UNCLAS

EGYPT AND THE USSR ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TODAY, APPARENTLY AS AN ADDENDUM TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE STILL AWAITED FROM THE CONCLUSION OF FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI'S MOSCOW VISIT. THE STATEMENT AFFIRMS THAT A JUST PEACE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT "SECURING" PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING "THEIR RIGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR NATIONAL ENTITY." THE STATEMENT FURTHER NOTES THAT EGYPT AND THE SOVIETS "ARE OF THE OPINION" THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION SHOULD ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN "AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY AND ON AN EQUAL FOOTING" WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

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PRESS SUMMARIES OF THE STATEMENT HAVE PLAYED IT AS PRESENTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE AS A PREREQUISITE TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE STATEMENT IN FACT DOES NO MORE THAN REPEAT STANDARD CALLS FOR A RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; IT CALLS NOT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE, BUT ONLY FOR RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO CREATE AN "ENTITY" IF THEY SO CHOOSE. THE STATEMENT'S USE OF THE TERM ENTITY RATHER THAN STATE LEAVES OPEN THE SHAPE AND INDEPENDENT STATUS OF ANY FUTURE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. THE TERM HAS OFTEN BEEN USED TO DENOTE A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE.

THE STATEMENT IS SOMEWHAT MORE CATEGORICAL IN ITS CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PLO DELEGATION AT GENEVA, BUT IT FALLS SHORT OF MAKING THIS A DEMAND, STATING ONLY THE EGYPTIAN-SOVIET "OPINION" ON THE SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH BOTH ISRAEL AND JORDAN HAVE STATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE ATTENDANCE OF A SEPARATE PLO DELEGATION, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR PLO PARTICIPATION AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE A STABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT. E2 IMPDET.

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